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FLOOR DEBATE

March 5, 2002 LB 458, 814, 936

of the E & R amendments to LB 814.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion is to adopt the E & R amendments. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Schrock would move to amend, AM2991. (Legislative Journal pages 811-815.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock to open on AM2991 to...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am the messenger today. And this is...is essentially LB 936, which was advanced unanimously by the Natural Resources Committee. And it has to do with storm water, and some of you have been lobbied very heavily on that. I would like to thank Senator Beutler for letting me use LB 814 as a vehicle. As I understand it, the provisions of LB 814 would be struck and LB 936 or AM2991 would become the bill. I'm going to read the first part of the amendment, the intent of the amendment. "The Legislature declares that: In order to protect the watercourses and bodies of water of the state, under requirements and mandates of state and federal law relating to storm water management programs, and to meet local storm water needs, certain municipalities, counties, and natural resources districts are responsible to develop and implement storm water management programs; and the costs to implement storm water management programs are significant, current funding sources and methods may be inadequate, and authority is necessary to develop a system of charges which may be imposed to carry out the storm water management programs. Charges collected shall be used only for storm water management programs." I would tell you this, this amendment replaces LB 814. And this amendment was put into LB...was amended onto LB 458 and we have withdrawn that amendment. This amendment provides for a method of municipalities, counties, and natural resources districts to charge a fee for the implementation of a storm water management program, which is mandated, and I will say the word mandated, under the Federal Clean Water Act. Under current law the city and the counties do not have the authority to charge a fee for this program. And cost associated with the program, if a fee system is not in place, would be placed on property taxpayers.